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ence in Mississippi, he had served with honor in the Revolution, and as Secretary and acting Governor in the Northwest Territory.

William Charles Cole Claiborne was a son of the noted Virginia family of that name. Seeking his fortune in New York, he gained employment as enrolling clerk to the Federal Congress, and followed that body to Philadelphia. There he attracted the notice of several prominent men, and John Sevier urged him to go to Tennessee. The beginning of his career in the Territory South of the Ohio, was very full of promise, and won favorable comment from William Blount the Governor. Claiborne sat in the Constitutional Convention of 1796, became a judge of the Supreme Court of the State (at twenty-two!) and was twice sent to the House of Representatives. In 1801, when only twenty-six he was appointed by Jefferson to be Governor of Mississippi Territory, and it is this part of his life which is covered by the Journal. Two years later the President sent him to act with Wilkinson as Commissioner to receive the cession of Louisiana from Laussat, and he acted as Provisional Governor until October 2, 1804. At that time he was regularly transferred from Mississippi and made Governor of Orleans Territory, in which capacity he continued to act until his election, in 1812, to be the first Governor of the State of Louisiana. In 1817 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, but in that year his career was cut short by his death "on the threshold," says Mr. Rowland, "of a great national carer."

Mr. Rowland has included portraits of both Governor Sargent and Governor Claiborne. These, with a photographic fac-simile of the first page of Sargent's journal, constitute the illustrations. Besides explanatory footnotes, the editor has provided a satisfactory table of the letters and a sufficient index.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT.

A HISTORY DE LUXE

In the flood of American histories with which the last two or three years have deluged the public, there have been all sorts of

books. Some, for example, Osgood's "The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century," appeal only to the specialist. Others, like "The American Nation," edited by Professor Hart, or "The History of the United States" by Professor Channing, are expected to stand the criticism of scholars and yet to interest the general public. Still others, such as the series edited by Mr. G. C. Lee are attractive in their outward guise but within prove to be poor or at least of variable worth. We have coöperative histories, histories by simple writers, little books and big books (the latter seem to predominate), works without any illustrations and works that are found to be art galleries in miniature.

To this throng which stands awaiting the verdict of time and trial, the Burrows Brothers Company of Cleveland have contributed "A History of the United States and Its People," by Dr. Elroy McKendree Avery. Only two volumes have thus far appeared, the first limited to the treatment of prehistoric America, the Indians, and the discoveries; the second devoted to the history of the English, French and Dutch colonies from 1600 to 1660. The work was originally planned for completion in twelve volumes, but already it has been found necessary to prepare for the increase of that number to fifteen. However, if not another page were given to the world, these two volumes would win ample admiration and respect for the ideal conceived by Dr. Avery and his publisher-friend, Colonel Burrows.

For in some ways this work is unique. It is intended, not for the special student, but for the American people, and the author is a compiler rather than an investigator of original sources. But Dr. Avery differs from most second-hand writers, first in the breadth and depth of his reading and second in his *desire* for absolute accuracy. If errors do occur in his book it is not for lack of honest effort to prevent them. Hence this work commends itself, — above all the other "popular" histories of the day, — on the ground of accuracy. In this respect, a comparison with many of the volumes of the late Mr. Fiske would redound favorably to Dr. Avery.

To these characteristics of wide and varied reading and of intended accuracy, is added an equally notable and praiseworthy

determination to make the book beautiful. That this effort will be justified, in the near future, by adequate pecuniary returns must seem to the layman hardly credible. For apparently no expense has been spared to make Dr. Avery's history what we have ventured to describe as an art gallery in miniature. The fine paper and the large type make the text pleasant to read, while the illustrations are so rich and so profuse as to call forth the highest admiration. We think that perhaps even of the best there are too many; a few cuts might certainly have been omitted. We question the usefulness of pictures of modern monuments, and of the seal of the Jamestown Exposition Company. These exceptions, however, are few and far between, and for the rest praise is hardly to be exaggerated. To present so many facsimile pages of rare manuscripts and pamphlets, so many reproductions of maps and portraits is a great educational service. There are few men who may in a lifetime expect to see even a part of the historical materials thus excellently gathered together. The Public Record Office., the British Museum, the New York Public Library, the John Carter Brown Library, and many other collections have been drawn upon for these photographs.

For an exhaustive criticism of details this does not seem the place. In general we are confident that this work of Dr. Avery's will be found charming to the eye and full of interest and suggestiveness: and the reader, while thus pleasantly entertained may feel sure that he is reading a good presentation of the facts of American history.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT

PHILOSOPHY

THE WORLD'S EPOCH-MAKERS. Edited by Oliphant Smeaton. New York : Charles Scribner's Sons.

This very useful series of hand-books is designed to give popular information in regard to the great leaders, whether in religion, philosophy or science, who have had much to do with directing and moulding the world's thought. The following volumes are before us: